

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4755
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5991

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, US
SUBJECT: GDR MFA AGAIN RAISES ISSUES OF MILITARY
PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN.

REF: (A) BERLIN 5767; (B) BERLIN 5908.

1. DURING MEETING MAY 6 ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WITH CHARGE (SEPTTEL), GDA MFA USA DIVISION CHIEF GEYER SAID HE WISHED TO RAISE AN "UNPLEASANT SUBJECT" AT THE INSTRUCTION OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT. ACCORDING TO GEYER, ON MARCH 19, AND 24, A VEHICLE, WITH 3-4 PASSENGERS, WITH LICENSE PLATE BC-221 WAS SEEN LATE IN THE EVENING BY PEDESTRIANS IN THE PANKOW AREA. THE OCCUPANTS OF THE VEHICLE HAD REMOVED GDR FLAGS FROM PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND HAD ENGAGED IN OTHER ACTS OF VANDALISM. WHILE GEYER COULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED MIGHT HAVE WANTED THE FLAGS FOR SOUVENIR PURPOSES, THIS WAS A FORM OF VANDALISM WHICH WAS UNNECESSARY AND EVEN HARMFUL. THE MINISTRY, THEREFORE, EXPECTED THAT MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO AVOID SIMILAR INCIDENTS, AND GEYER REGRETTED THIS HAD BEEN THE SECOND TIME IN RECENT WEEKS THAT THE SUBJECT OF US VEHICLES HAD TO BE RAISED WITH THE EMBASSY. HE NOTED THAT AN MFA OFFICIAL

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HAD TALKED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER EARLIER ON THE SUBJECT OF US VEHICLES.

2. CHARGE RESPONDED BY POINTING OUT THAT AN EMBASSY OFFICER HAD, ON MAY2, INFORMED MFA DEPUTY PROTOCOL CHIEF THE SUBJECT THE LATTER HAD RAISED ON APRIL 14 WAS NOT AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN

THE MFA AND THE EMBASSY, AND THAT THERE WERE OTHER CHANNELS FOR RAISING SUCH MATTERS. ALONG THE SAME LINES, THE CHARGE WISHED TO NOTE THAT IF FR. GEYER ASSUMED THAT THE VEHICLE INVOLVED WAS AN AMERICAN ONE, BASED ON THE LICENSE PLATE, THAT NEITHER THE EMBASSY NOR THE MINISTRY WAS THE APPROPRIATE CHANNEL TO RAISE SUCH MATTERS AND THAT, DR. GEYER KNEW, THERE WERE SUCH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS. GEYER MADE NO ATTEMPT TO RESPOND.

3. COMMENT: IT IS DISTURBING THAT THE EAST GERMANS HAVE TWICE WITHIN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS SOUGHT TO RAISE THE MATTER OF US PATROL VEHICLES WITH THE EMBASSY. WE ASSUME THE EMBASSY OFFICER'S REMARKS MAY 2 TO KIEHNE WOULD HAVE BEEN PASSED ALONG PROMPTLY TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE MFA. GEYER'S RAISING OF TWO ALLEGED INCIDENTS IN MARCH COULD BE PART OF A CONTINUING GDR PROBE TO SEE HOW WE RESPOND TO SUCH EFFORTS ON THEIR PART. RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN WHAT EVIDENCE GEYER HAD FOR HIS ASSERTION THAT THE VEHICLE WAS A US VEHICLE, CHARGE SOUGHT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS OF SUCH MATTERS WITH THE MFA. IN THE EVENT THE MFA SHOULD RETURN TO THE SUBJECT, WE WILL TELL THEM THAT, AS WE HAVE STATED CLEARLY TWICE, NEITHER THEY NOR WE ARE APPROPRIATE DISCUSSION PARTNERS ON SUCH MATTERS. FURTHERMORE, CONTINUING EFFORTS ON THEIR PART TO RAISE SUCH MATTERS WITH US CAN ONLY CALL INTO QUESTION THEIR DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS. POLANSKY

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